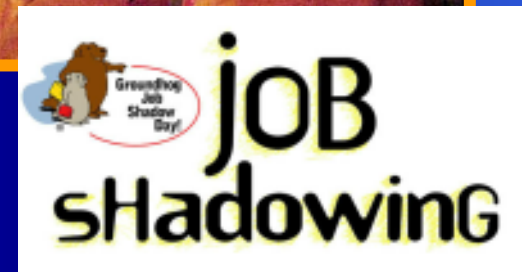
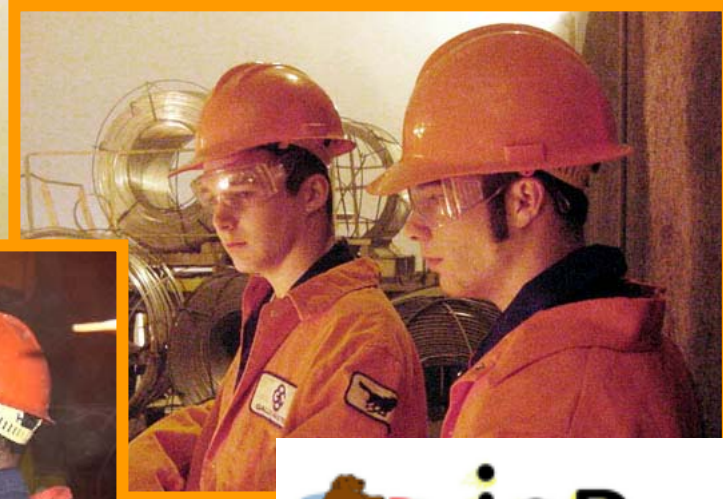


Carroll Co ATC Students See the Real World of Work as Part of National Groundhog Job Shadow Day



Pictured clockwise from top: Industrial Maintenance Technology (IMT) Student Tim North watches as steel is melted for use at Gallatin Steel; North, right, along with fellow IMT Student Jourdan See watch as the molten steel is formed and rolled into bundles; Gallatin Steel employee Steve Hughes, left, talks to IMT Student Cam Anderson about his job duties.



Carroll Co. ATC students had a chance to visit the “real world” of work on Feb. 2 as they participated in the 7th Annual National Groundhog Job Shadow Day (NGJSD.) As part of the program, they were allowed to follow or “shadow” employees at various businesses to gain a better understanding of what their jobs entail.

Seven Carroll Co. industries hosted 89 students enrolled in the industrial chemical, industrial maintenance, information technology and welding programs. Those industries included Gallatin Steel, Dow Corning, Atofina, North American Stainless (NAS), Kentucky Utilities, BPB, and Arvin Meritor.

NGJSD is a joint effort of General Colin Powell’s America’s Promise – Alliance for Youth, the American Society for Association Executives, Junior Achievement, and the National School to Work Office and has become one of the most successful employer-student interactive events in the country. It got its start on the local level in Boston in 1997 and has grown to encompass 1 million students and 100,000 businesses nationally.

“Through the years, Kentucky students have shadowed businessmen and women within their local areas as well as individuals in state government and even the state legislature. It is a day of fun and reality for all involved,” said Dianne Smithers, School to Work/Careers branch director. “We are challenged to provide them with accurate insight about the work environment and the skills that are needed. We hope that the opportunities presented measure up to their expectations.”

“Local support has been overwhelming,” said Carroll Co. ATC Principal Jennifer Stafford. “County Judge Executive Harold ‘Shorty’ Tomlinson issued a proclamation declaring Feb. 2 as Groundhog Job Shadow Day in Carrollton and Gallatin Steel announced that one of the participating students would receive a full scholarship to Jefferson Community College.”

Students were enthusiastic about the event, gaining knowledge they may not have otherwise received in the everyday operations of these industries, according to Ms. Stafford. "Many of the students were profoundly affected by their shadowing opportunity," she said. "A job shadowing experience might make a difference in their lives by giving them a new vision for their future."

"The Groundhog Job Shadow Day really opened my eyes," said Jourdan See, an industrial maintenance student. "It was very interesting to see how molten metal ends up as a banned roll of steel. I'm glad that we were able to get around the plant and really see how scientific the whole process can be. I now understand what kind of opportunities I have for the future."

As in any event of this magnitude, many people played significant roles in putting together all of the details to make it successful. Jill Ralston, Department for Technical Education training & development specialist located at Carroll Co. ATC, served as a pivotal person in the organization of the day.

"The students got to learn about manufacturing duties while the employees enjoyed demonstrating their daily jobs," said Ms. Ralston.

Others involved in the coordination of the event included Ms. Stafford, Ralph Henson, information technology instructor; Monty Hill, welding instructor; Charles Hollingsworth, industrial maintenance instructor and Rob Sutherland, industrial chemical instructor.



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